



COLORADO
Department of Education

Colorado State Board of Education

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
BEFORE THE
COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION COMMISSION
DENVER, COLORADO
June 10, 2015, Part 3

BE IT REMEMBERED THAT on June 10, 2015, the
above-entitled meeting was conducted at the Colorado
Department of Education, before the following Board
Members:

Marcia Neal (R), Chairman
Angelika Schroeder (D), Vice Chairman
Steven Durham (R)
Valentina (Val) Flores (D)
Jane Goff (D)
Pam Mazanec (R)
Debora Scheffel (R)



1 MADAM CHAIR: Board will come back to order.
2 Once again, we've made a few changes to the agenda. We
3 never get four in one, so -- so --

4 (Overlapping)

5 MS. MAZANEC: We simply cannot --

6 MADAM CHAIR: We're going to have the public
7 comment session, but only for those people who signed up
8 to testify through Crown Pointe Academy. The other
9 people will need to come back this afternoon and do it
10 then. And so we will have our testimony here. It is, as
11 usual, three minutes. You are timed. We will stop you.
12 If you are in the middle of a sentence, you can finish
13 the sentence, but you need to -- you know, we need to
14 keep it to three minutes.

15 So we're going to talk and begin with
16 Jacqueline Sullivan (ph). Jacqueline Sullivan? No.

17 MS. SCHROEDER: She's here.

18 MADAM CHAIR: Oh, there you are. Yes, three
19 minutes. Go right ahead. Please, go ahead.

20 MS. SULLIVAN: Through the maze. Madam
21 Chair, Board Members, and Commissioner. My name is
22 Jacqueline Sullivan. I have been a kindergarten teacher
23 at Crown Pointe Academy for the last 18 years since its
24 opening in 1997. I am also a district (indiscernible)
25 alumni attending grades K through 12th grade. Today I



1 speak in support of Crown Pointe Academy's challenge of
2 the Westminster District 50's exclusive charter
3 authority.

4 Eighteen years ago, I was excited to teach
5 at the first District 50 charter school. But even though
6 I was not involved in administration, I was soon aware
7 that CPA was not treated as a school that is equal to the
8 other schools within our district. I address two main
9 issues today:

10 First, only recently when CPA asked to be
11 released by the district did it finally acknowledge us as
12 a school on its website. Previous to this request, we
13 were listed under the title Other Facilities, along with
14 their warehouse. If, as they claim, no harm has been
15 done due to this, why do very few people know we exist?

16 Recently, having been around administration
17 and personnel and parents from neighboring districts, I
18 recently shared that I taught at District 50 charter
19 school and they incredulously stated, "We didn't even
20 know they had a charter school." And when they found out
21 that we had been around almost as long as Excel Academy
22 in Jefferson County, an operation for 20 years, they were
23 shocked. Yes, it is frustrating and embarrassing that we
24 are a great school with incredible students within
25 District 50 and many people don't know we exist.



1 The second point I address today is very
2 dear to me. In the 18 years of teaching, I am shocked
3 and dismayed by the lack of recognition as a school by
4 our district in the realism of student safety. In 1999,
5 the shooting of Columbine High Schools spurred lockdowns
6 -- school lockdowns for safety measures. While the
7 district claims that they have all of their students and
8 safety and interests at heart, that is not consistently
9 true when it comes to the students of CPA.

10 When we were located on the same campus as
11 the alternative high school, now known as Hidden Lake
12 High School, I had my 26 kindergarten students outside at
13 recess. Their security guard came running across the
14 field and asked me why we were outside when the district
15 was on lockdown due to a bank robbery right near the
16 school. My heart dropped.

17 MADAM CHAIR: (Indiscernible).

18 MS. SULLIVAN: Had it not been for his
19 caring heart, I don't know what might've happened. I
20 wish that I could confirm that this was an isolated
21 occurrence, but even today, our school is often contacted
22 by our parent population that we should be under lockdown
23 way before the district has contacted us. Is this
24 perhaps because they don't acknowledge as a school with
25 their district?



1 Fortunately to date, nothing has happened.
2 These are only two of the many incidences of how CPA is
3 not treated as an equal, as other schools in the
4 district, but rather listed with a district warehouse in
5 their brochure, with supplies --

6 MADAM CHAIR: Thank you.

7 MS. SULLIVAN: -- rather than --

8 MADAM CHAIR: Your three minutes is up.

9 MS. SULLIVAN: -- the school with precious
10 young children and their education and safety as a
11 priority.

12 MADAM CHAIR: Thank you.

13 MS. SULLIVAN: Thank you.

14 MADAM CHAIR: Thank you very much. Matthew
15 Saunders (ph)?

16 MR. SAUNDERS: Thank you, Madam Chair and
17 State Education Board Members and Commissioner for this
18 time. My name's Matthew Saunders and I'm here as a
19 parent supporter of CPA's request for revocation to Adams
20 50's exclusive chartering authority.

21 I want to speak about choice in the district
22 from a parent's point of view. In 1999, my wife and I
23 would move to Westminster. We've been a part of this
24 community for many years. In 2005, we became foster
25 parents of a five-year-old girl from Adams County Social



1 Services. And after six months, we adopted her. We
2 registered her for kindergarten at Flynn -- Flynn
3 Elementary, our home elementary school. And we also put
4 her on the waitlist at Crown Pointe Academy, on the
5 recommendation of friends.

6 Given the extremely long waitlist, we didn't
7 have high expectations that we would actually get in.
8 Flynn seemed pretty good, seemed all right, until the
9 district announced it was adopting SBS, now competency-
10 based systems. And I want to emphasize that this was
11 without any timely consultation with parents. I've been
12 on the PTA board for a couple of years and I had no ideas
13 that it was coming. This lack of communication led to a
14 state of confusion in the parent-teacher -- rather, the
15 parent-student community. And it was almost like the
16 district was trying to hide what was being done.

17 Despite this, we gave CBS a chance, but
18 after a year, it became clear that it was failing our
19 daughter. Despite our attempts to work with the school
20 in the district, this change was harming our daughter's
21 progress and we had no other place to go.

22 As our daughter approached middle school,
23 between reputation around bullying, staff apathy, poor
24 test scores, and CBS that had failed our daughter in
25 elementary school, this was in terms of all the other



1 schools that she could attend in the district, we found
2 ourselves dismayed. We started looking around for other
3 -- other options, any options, and there didn't appear to
4 be any. What we finally did is we signed our daughter up
5 to go to private school. This isn't what we wanted to
6 do. We believe in the public school system.

7 Luckily -- and there -- and most parents
8 can't afford to make this kind of jump. CPA called a
9 week or two before sixth grade began. The new building
10 had opened up new spots for children, and we were
11 delighted, because we support the public school system.
12 We forfeited our deposit with the private school and came
13 back to what we felt was the only good choice for middle
14 school in Adams 50. She thrived at Crown Pointe Academy
15 with teachers and administrators that understood and
16 cared about her history in the foster care system.

17 But as our daughter approached high school,
18 we found ourselves in the exact same pickle. Do we move
19 her into a high school in -- in what we perceive to be a
20 failing district, using this CBS? We found ourselves
21 feeling trapped again by the lack of choices in the
22 district and desperate to find a place that would suit
23 our -- our -- our daughter's needs. I'm sad to say that
24 this culminated in our recently moving from Westminster
25 to Littleton. It was that or private school.



1 I want to emphasize the primary reason for
2 this move was to have our daughter attend a high school
3 with a true -- proven track record of graduating large
4 percentage of successful young adults.

5 MADAM CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Saunders.

6 MR. SAUNDERS: We wanted her to be in a
7 place that she felt safe, challenged by -- with academic
8 rigor, and would support her needs like Crown Pointe
9 Academy had done in her middle school years.

10 MADAM CHAIR: Thank you.

11 MR. SAUNDERS: Thank you very much.

12 MADAM CHAIR: William Mars (ph)?

13 MR. MARS: Good morning, Madam Chair,
14 Commissioner, and Members of the Board of Education. My
15 name is William Mars. I'm a parent and the current
16 elected president of Crown Pointe Academy. I have held
17 this position for two years and I would like to speak in
18 support of CPA's challenge to revoke District 50's
19 exclusive chartering authority.

20 Later this afternoon, District 50 staff and
21 board members may paint a picture that Crown Pointe
22 Academy's challenge to the District Chartering Authority
23 is solely about money. I want you all to know that from
24 a Crown Pointe Academy board and parent perspective, this
25 is far from the truth. I would like to share with you



1 just a couple examples of how the district treats our one
2 and only charter school, even with regards to obligations
3 of our current contract.

4 In July of 2013, one of my responsibilities
5 as the president of the CPA board was a scheduled meeting
6 between the board and District 50's board. In August
7 2013, I sent a letter to Dr. Swanson (ph) requesting a
8 meeting that is required by our current charter contract.
9 We received no reply. In April of 2014, I was charged by
10 our board to resend the letter to Dr. Swanson requesting
11 a meeting between our boards. I did receive a response
12 this time and we arranged a meeting in June of 2014,
13 nearly ten months after my original request. It should
14 not take ten months to arrange a meeting with your one
15 and only charter school, especially when such a meeting
16 is required by our current contract.

17 During this meeting, roughly one year ago,
18 we were asked if Crown Pointe Academy was going to
19 support District 50 if they sought a mill and bond fall
20 election. We indicated that CPS would help, as it was in
21 our best interest to do so.

22 In the months leading up to the November
23 election, we realized that once again Crown Pointe
24 Academy was considered an afterthought and we were not
25 officially in the mill or the bond that they were asking



1 us to support. When we brought this to their attention,
2 it seemed as though they were shocked the CPA would want
3 to be included in the opportunity for additional funds.
4 We were asked to put together a memorandum of
5 understanding on the appropriation CPA felt we should get
6 in the mill and if -- and if the bond went through. We
7 asked for five percent of both, as our student room
8 represents approximately five percent of the districts
9 and students in District 50.

10 Through several modifications, our final
11 annual year requested approximately one percent of the
12 bond and less than five percent of the mill, as we were
13 told the District Board would not agree to more than
14 that. While we were disappointed the District would not
15 agree to consider giving Crown Pointe our pro rata share
16 of the mill or bond, our board had a special meeting to
17 approve the reduced MOU, sign the document, and send it
18 to the District.

19 CPA parents, students, staff signed a
20 campaign on behalf of the mill and bond, including going
21 door to door and providing information to the community
22 about the upcoming election. We thought it was a step
23 forward in the relationship between CPA and District 50.
24 However, we were disappointed to discover that District
25 50 Board never discussed nor signed our MOU. This is



1 just another example of how CPA is an afterthought of
2 District 50.

3 These seem trivial to the District. To
4 them, we are making a big deal out of small issues.
5 However, these issues are among others that are a big
6 deal to CPA. The District sees us as an afterthought or
7 even as a nuisance in most instances. They're too busy
8 to work and cooperate with their only district charter
9 school. For these reasons and so many others, we're
10 asking the state board to revoke Westminster District
11 50's exclusive chartering authority. Thank you.

12 MADAM CHAIR: Thank you. (Indiscernible)
13 Nora Flood (ph) part of this?

14 MS. SCHROEDER: Yes.

15 MS. FLOOD: Good morning, Madam Chair,
16 Members of the Board, Commissioner Hammond. My name is
17 Nora Flood. I'm the president of the Colorado League of
18 Charter Schools, the non-profit membership organization
19 representing the 214 charter schools in Colorado. I'm
20 here today to also speak in support of Crown Pointe
21 Academy's challenge of Adams 50's exclusive chartering
22 authority.

23 Crown Pointe Academy is a well respected
24 charter school that has been open for 18 years and has a
25 long track record of providing the children of Adams 50



1 with a high quality education. The challenge they bring
2 before you today is one with ample merit, with plenty of
3 strong evidence to support it, and so I ask you to please
4 give it serious consideration.

5 Charter schools have existed in Colorado and
6 across the nation for over two decades. And in that
7 time, we've learned a lot about what qualifies as sound
8 authorizer behavior. Do they treat their charter schools
9 equitably? Do they provide charter school students the
10 same funding and opportunities as other students in the
11 district? In the case of a district like Adams 50 that
12 is on the state's accountability clock, do they
13 demonstrate a willingness to open or expand high quality
14 charter schools within their boundaries?

15 On all of these counts and as the evidence
16 Crown Pointe will present to you later today will
17 confirm, we believe the answer to these questions with
18 Adams 50 is an unqualified no. Adams 50 School District
19 has failed to meet the standard by which they should be
20 allowed to retain their exclusive chartering authority
21 and that there -- therefore should be revoked today when
22 the issue comes before you.

23 Adams 50 does not, nor have they ever,
24 shared any mill levy revenue with their charter school.
25 Additionally, they actually state in their charter



1 contract with Crown Pointe that this lack of sharing will
2 continue in perpetuity. Adams 50 does not market their
3 charter school in the same way as the other schools in
4 the district. And in fact, up until this challenge was
5 initiated as you saw, Crown Pointe Academy was not even
6 listed in the school directory page of the district.

7 This is not the first time the issue of Adam
8 50's exclusive charter authority has been come before
9 you. For a period of several years in the mid-2000s,
10 Adams 50 had its exclusive chartering authority revoked
11 for its poor behavior towards charter schools, including
12 placing a moratorium on the growth of future charter
13 schools and a refusal to open a charter school, despite
14 explicit orders from the State Board to do so.

15 Meanwhile, all of this is happening against
16 the backdrop of a district performance record that is far
17 from ideal. Adams 50 has been on the state's priority
18 improvement or turnaround clock for the past six years.
19 As a result of this long track record of subpar
20 performance, nearly 3,800 students or roughly 27 percent
21 of the district total are currently leaving the district
22 on an annual basis to find options in other places. This
23 should not have to be the case. Students should not have
24 to look beyond their district boundaries to find a high
25 quality public school that meets their educational needs.



1 As long as Adams 50 retains its exclusive chartering
2 authority with this general aversion towards charter
3 schools that would seem to entail, the likelihood that
4 the students of Adams 50 will soon have more high quality
5 options to choose from seems very slim.

6 MADAM CHAIR: Thank you.

7 MS. FLOOD: Thank you.

8 MADAM CHAIR: And finish up here with
9 Michelle Klein (ph)?

10 MS. KLEIN: Thank you, Chair, for hearing me
11 today. I also am a Crown Pointe parent. I have a
12 student who's entering the second grade and a student
13 who's entering kindergarten. I became involved in CPA
14 though long before that, when as a new parent I was
15 looking around the district to see where my sons were
16 going to go to school. Seven years ago, I was in panic
17 mode when I looked at the performance of District 50. I
18 talked about moving, just like Mr. Saunders did. I
19 talked about private school with my husband. And I was
20 talking with a friend who suggested this little gem that
21 she had found, sent her kids to, which is Crown Pointe.
22 And that has been what it is to me, which is a gem.

23 So I'm asking you guys today to do the right
24 decision. It's not going to be maybe the most
25 comfortable decision, but it's the right and it's the



1 lawful decision. In 2009, when District 50 got their
2 chartering authority back after having it revoked by the
3 State Board, they promised you, they promised me, they
4 promised CPA in their chartering agreement that they
5 would follow those statutory requirements. And the
6 bottom line is that they have not.

7 You have read CPA's notice to revoke. You
8 have read the response; there are two. What you will
9 notice in CPA's notice to revoke is that we are
10 addressing additional -- each of those requirements with
11 supporting factors behind why that's not happening. One
12 of the main things is that we're not getting the reviews
13 that we are -- that are required under the statute. Not
14 only is it statutorily required to provide Crown Pointe
15 Academy with analysis and written review every year, it's
16 also so important to the Charter School's Act that it was
17 mentioned in the legislative declaration of the act
18 itself. The point of charter schools is to make sure
19 that they are doing it right.

20 If you look at Crown Pointe's progress and
21 its educational achievements over the years, you will see
22 that we are head and shoulders above 50. And we have
23 done that all by ourselves; zero guidance from the
24 District. So I'm asking you, make the right decision
25 today. There is no reason that they should keep their



1 chartering authority. I hope as a person who grew up in
2 Colorado's public school, that they do come to a point
3 when they can get that chartering authority back where I
4 feel comfortable sending my kids to a District 50 school.
5 Because like Mr. Saunders, in a few years I'm going to be
6 one of those 4,000 parents who is fleeing the district to
7 send my kids to a high school I can trust. And I will
8 not be sending them to a District 50 school. I will
9 either go broke in a -- in a private school or send them
10 out of district.

11 So I urge you. It's a hard decision, I
12 know, but it's the right and it's the lawful decision to
13 make. And I just ask you to look at the accompanying
14 documents that the -- that the district has provided.
15 Not one document in there goes to prove that they have
16 followed the statutory requirements. If you'll see, it's
17 kind of a bait and switch. Crown Pointe didn't tell us
18 that we had to follow that, so let's give us -- keep
19 giving us a try. Well, Crown Pointe isn't here to make
20 sure the District is doing their job.

21 MADAM CHAIR: Thank you, Ms. Klein.

22 MS. KLEIN: Crown Pointe is here to educate
23 my kids. And I appreciate that they have. Thank you.

24 MADAM CHAIR: Thank you. Dr. Walker (ph)?
25 You can come back this afternoon, right? Right, Dr.



1 Walker. Three minutes.

2 MR. WALKER: Madam Chair and Board and
3 members of the audience, I graduated from District 50
4 with Mr. High School spring of 1953. Problems with lack
5 of funding then, sounds like there's still problems with
6 funding there. And private schools, charter schools have
7 their purpose, but yesterday on Colorado Public Radio, it
8 mentioned several times, the national law agency said
9 that Colorado deserved an F when it came to efforts
10 toward funding. It's pretty strong language.

11 MADAM CHAIR: Yeah.

12 MR. WALKER: Charter schools, private
13 schools all fit within this rubric of being in the lowest
14 quarter of funding. And I want to thank Commissioner
15 Hammond and Assistant Commissioner Owen for their
16 diligent efforts to try to implement an unfunded mandate
17 called Senate Bill 191.

18 You know, if you're really in favor of
19 something, you're a public employee and you work for it,
20 that's one thing. When you have some doubts and you work
21 just as hard, if not hard --

22 MADAM CHAIR: So true.

23 MR. WALKER: -- when you have your doubts,
24 that's really admirable. Thank you, Commissioner and
25 thank you, Commissioner Owens for trying. I want to



1 thank you all for your efforts to lessen the amounts of
2 standardized testing. I testified about myself many
3 times.

4 Next year I hope we'll talk more about the
5 quality of standardized testing and their disparate
6 impact on students at (indiscernible). And don't take
7 this personally, when I first talked to this board in '76
8 or '77, one of the house crazy -- I was told by
9 Commissioner, may he rest in peace, tell Frasier (ph)
10 that security had been called on me, because I had the
11 audacity to mention that the Board was not diverse and
12 lacked a black presence. Nothing personal, but it still
13 lack a black presence, a regular black presence. And I
14 hope you keep that in mind when you're searching for a
15 commissioner. I put in a name. I have several other
16 names I will mention to you in the search committee. We
17 certainly know that the lack of retain of teachers and
18 black teachers is a problem in Colorado and about 40
19 percent of the students is students of color.

20 And finally, speaking as a helicopter
21 grandparent of two Latina great-granddaughters who are
22 both now in college, first generation, speaking of my
23 great-great-granddaughter, Desi Latina (ph) got some
24 awards from preschool. I was involved with Headstart
25 when I was teaching the kinetic in the '60s. And through



1 Desi, I've gotten the chance to rethink some of the
2 things, well, almost 50 years ago about Headstart and how
3 much children who don't have privileges need these two
4 years to get a start --

5 MADAM CHAIR: Thank you.

6 MR. WALKER: -- before they go into
7 kindergarten. So thank you for decreasing the -- the
8 quality of testing. Next year let's work on the
9 qualitative. Thank you.

10 MADAM CHAIR: Thank you.

11 MS. SCHROEDER: Thank you.

12 MADAM CHAIR: All righty. We will now move
13 to the fiscal request in parental one. (Indiscernible).

14 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Madam Chair,
15 (indiscernible) brought this item forward and both Ms.
16 Leanne E-mail and Mr. Jeffrey (ph). (Indiscernible) will
17 be go with a request for (indiscernible).

18 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: (Indiscernible) I don't
19 know if I'm on it.

20 MADAM CHAIR: You want more money, Jeff?

21 MR. JEFFREY: I'm sorry?

22 MADAM CHAIR: Do you want more money?

23 MR. JEFFREY: If I can. Thank you. I will
24 keep this brief. I know you all are running a bit
25 behind. We're here to revisit the handouts that you



1 received last month on our change request. And to just
2 briefly recap, the first two items are annual requests
3 that we're required to submit by statute for a total
4 program at that (indiscernible). So I won't -- won't
5 belabor those, although if you have any questions, please
6 let me know.

7 The reason we're here today is to request
8 approval for the third item, the preschool in service
9 training plan. As we discussed last month, it will be
10 funded with attached check-off on the Colorado income tax
11 return. It's about \$72,000. And they're planning on
12 using it for professional development, developing some
13 toolkits, materials, and technical persistence to
14 preschool teachers in the classrooms around the state.
15 If you had a chance to view the materials from last
16 month, we're here to answer any questions you might have
17 about those.

18 MADAM CHAIR: Board, any questions?

19 MS. SCHROEDER: No. Wish it was more.

20 MADAM CHAIR: And tax checked off, so I'm
21 going to add it our (indiscernible).

22 MR. JEFFREY: (Indiscernible) in there.

23 MS. SCHROEDER: I'm ready to make a --

24 MADAM CHAIR: Oh, is there a motion?

25 MS. SCHROEDER: I move to approve the



1 preschool in-service training plan change request.

2 MADAM CHAIR: Is there a second?

3 MS. FLORES: I second. (Indiscernible).

4 MADAM CHAIR: Staff, please call the role.

5 MS. BURDSALL: Steve Durham?

6 MR. DURHAM: Aye.

7 MS. BURDSALL: Dr. Flores?

8 MS. FLORES: Aye.

9 MS. BURDSALL: Jane Goff?

10 MS. GOFF: Aye.

11 MS. BURDSALL: Pam Mazanec?

12 MS. MAZANEC: Aye.

13 MS. BURDSALL: Marcia Neal?

14 MS. NEAL: Aye.

15 MS. BURDSALL: Dr. Sheffel?

16 MS. SCHEFFEL: Yes.

17 MS. BURDSALL: Dr. Schroeder?

18 MS. SCHROEDER: Yes.

19 MADAM CHAIR: (Indiscernible). Thank you.

20 Thank you (indiscernible).

21 MS. SCHROEDER: Thank you.

22 MS. MAZANEC: Can I borrow your magic wand?

23 MADAM CHAIR: All right, I lost

24 (indiscernible).

25 MS. SCHROEDER: Harry Potter, right?



1 MADAM CHAIR: (Indiscernible). Where are
2 we?

3 (Overlapping)

4 MS. SCHROEDER: I'm listening.
5 (Indiscernible).

6 MADAM CHAIR: We are jumping around again
7 and we're going to 12.01 --

8 MR. DURHAM: Yeah.

9 MADAM CHAIR: 12.01. Recognitions of the
10 2015 Green Ribbon School award winners.

11 MR. DURHAM: Mr. Owen?

12 MR. OWENS: Good morning.

13 MADAM CHAIR: Looks like we --

14 MR. OWENS: Guess getting close. Good
15 afternoon. Now, Chair, so today, we're excited to be
16 able to recognize the 2015 Green Ribbon Schools. The
17 U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools Awards
18 honor America's public and private elementary, middle
19 schools, high schools, and for the first time this year,
20 institutions of higher education for their efforts
21 towards improving student health and achievement in
22 reducing their environmental impact.

23 A Green Ribbon School award represents a
24 healthy and sustainable school, district, or institution
25 of higher education. These schools are recognized by



1 parents, students, staff, governments of federal, state,
2 and local levels exemplary models of achievement of
3 sustainability, health, and environmental education.
4 Green Ribbon schools are celebrated for their increased
5 energy cost savings, improved health and wellness for
6 students and staff, improved student performance and
7 engagement, and enhanced critical thinking skills in
8 science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

9 Even though this was a record year for
10 nominations, only 35 elementary schools across the nation
11 were awarded. We are honored that Red Hawk Elementary in
12 St. Vrain school district was selected to be among these
13 schools. This was also the first year the U.S.
14 Department of Education offered a post-secondary
15 sustainability award for institutions of higher
16 education. The Colorado Department of Education
17 collaborated with the Colorado Department of Higher --
18 the Colorado Department of Education collaborated with
19 the Colorado Department of Higher Education to
20 (indiscernible) a nomination for this award.

21 Colorado State University in Fort Collins
22 was chosen in this inaugural year as only one of nine
23 institutions in the country to be honored. Today we are
24 proud to honor the two Colorado schools that have
25 achieved this national Green Ribbon school status for



1 2015. Now I'd like to briefly talk about each of these
2 sites.

3 Red Hawk Elementary School is a kindergarten
4 through fifth grade school that promotes rigorous
5 instruction in math, science, technology, with an
6 emphasis in integrating the arts into all these areas.
7 Red Hawk STEM focus ties into daily learning about
8 sustainability and the environment, alongside the study
9 of thoughtful design of the school building. The school
10 facility itself is a LEED gold-certified, designed to
11 conserve energy dramatically and reduce environmental
12 impact through the use of many green technologies.

13 Colorado State University, CSU, was a leader
14 in sustainability long before the sustainability movement
15 took hold, opening its first campus farm in 1888. These
16 days make the sustainability a priority in -- in the
17 fields as diverse as academics, engagement, operations
18 and planning, and administration as the heart of the
19 university's mission. And it's taken decades of vision
20 and hard work. CSU focuses on optimizing its campus
21 operations to reduce environmental impact, maintaining
22 student and staff (indiscernible) throughout its robust
23 alternative transportation system, as well as healthy and
24 sustainable dining options. And offering more than 1,000
25 sustainably-focused courses spanning across all of its



1 colleges in order to educate the nation's next green
2 entrepreneurs.

3 So with that, we'd like to go ahead and call
4 each of these schools forward to say a few brief words.
5 And then we'd like to take some pictures and recognize
6 each of these schools for their award. So Red Hawk
7 Elementary principal Cyrus Weinberger, if you're here, if
8 you'd come forward, say a few words?

9 MADAM CHAIR: Thank you. Welcome.

10 MR. WEINBERGER: Madam Chairman and Members
11 of the Board, it's a pleasure (indiscernible) pleasure
12 (indiscernible) that I stand here before you today to
13 represent Red Hawk Elementary and St. Vrain Valley School
14 District. I want to begin by thanking you for your
15 nomination, as it was a great honor throughout the
16 Colorado and in Washington, D.C. last week. We also
17 appreciated the support of (indiscernible) as well.

18 This award is symbolic of the innovation and
19 creativity (indiscernible) our story (indiscernible).
20 We're focused on STEM education, health and wellness, the
21 environment (indiscernible) to create robust learning
22 environments for our students. (Indiscernible) students
23 not only achieve academically, but also we're -- look --
24 look forward to coming to school every day, a story where
25 our policy and practices support our students' emotional



1 well-being and the environment.

2 Our (indiscernible) program is a terrific
3 example of this. When Red Hawk built it, we started with
4 a comprehensive program creating 35 to 40 minutes of
5 rigorous activity into the school day for all of our
6 students. The following year, we organized
7 (indiscernible) schools summit that focused on how to
8 (indiscernible) activity in the classroom.

9 (Indiscernible) states showed up. We received a grant
10 from Kaiser (ph), where we trained 75 teachers in the Red
11 Hawk (indiscernible) program and also simultaneously
12 during this time St. Vrain received a \$1.4 million grant
13 from the Colorado Health Foundation to help all of our
14 elementary schools and (indiscernible) teachers.

15 So we hope our story and this award will
16 inspire schools in Colorado and districts, as well to
17 improve learning environments by including an emphasis --
18 by including an emphasis -- wow, that was a little late,
19 right? By including an emphasis on health and wellness
20 in the environment, and for these efforts that will
21 ensure a happy and healthy future for all Colorado
22 students. So thank you very much for your support. I
23 really appreciate it.

24 MADAM CHAIR: Thank you. You want to take -
25 - do both of them and then do the pictures, go ahead.



1 MR. OWENS: Okay. Correct, Madam Chair. If
2 we could also have now from Colorado State University
3 lead engineer Carol Dollard come forward?

4 MS. DOLLARD: Madam -- excuse me -- Madam
5 Chair and Members of the Board, I'm happy to be here on
6 behalf of Colorado State University to be honored in this
7 way. This has been a great year of firsts for Colorado
8 State University. Not only were we one of the nine
9 schools across the entire country to be honored by Green
10 Ribbon Schools as the first higher ed institutions to get
11 this honor, this was also the year that we were honored
12 by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability
13 in Higher Ed as the first school to receive platinum
14 under their sustainability metric, known as STARS. We
15 also received our first platinum award for a building at
16 Colorado State in the lead building system. So it's been
17 a great year of kudos for something that's been building
18 for a long time.

19 So while we're really proud of the whole
20 spectrum of sustainability that happens at Colorado
21 State, everything from we're up to nearly 7,000 kilowatts
22 of solar on campus, but we also have programs in all
23 kinds of areas. You guys have heard about our STEM
24 education program. The Little Shop of Physics I think is
25 well known across the state for their very creative ways



1 that they engage students from very young to very old in
2 learning that science can be really fun. And I think the
3 best way that that's manifested is the annual weather day
4 that they at Coors Field, where they literally engage
5 tens of thousands of students in fun stuff to make them
6 get excited about science.

7 So we all have a lot of work to do in the
8 sustainability field, but it's also great to stop and
9 celebrate every now and then. And we're really proud
10 that we got this honor. Thank you.

11 MADAM CHAIR: Now, if you would come forward
12 --

13 MR. WEINBERGER: Thank you.

14 MADAM CHAIR: -- we'll give you your
15 certificate and you can appear with your State Board
16 member. And I'll hide behind.

17 (Overlapping)

18 MS. SCHROEDER: Congratulations. Great job.

19 (Overlapping)

20 MS. BURDSALL: On three. One, two, three.
21 One more, just in case. Thank you.

22 (Applause)

23 MR. WEINBERGER: Thank you.

24 MADAM CHAIR: Angelika, that's not fair.

25 (Indiscernible). No, I'm kidding, Angelika.



1 (Overlapping)

2 MS. BURDSALL: On three. One, two, three.

3 Make sure eyes are open. All right. (Indiscernible).

4 (Applause)

5 (Overlapping)

6 MS. SCHROEDER: So, Marcia, I'm not sure we
7 all heard you when you talked about the rearrangement of
8 the (indiscernible).

9 MADAM CHAIR: I'll do it again, okay?

10 MS. SCHROEDER: Would you? Yeah, would you
11 do it again, please?

12 MADAM CHAIR: Because we just rearranged it
13 again.

14 MS. SCHROEDER: Okay. That's helpful. And
15 we got presidential scholars also.

16 (Overlapping)

17 MADAM CHAIR: I was -- I was waiting for
18 everybody to get in place. Missing two people.

19 (Overlapping)

20 MADAM CHAIR: Would -- would you mind going
21 out there to see if Steve and Deb are in the hall?

22 MS. GOFF: Oh, Deb's right there.

23 MADAM CHAIR: Val?

24 MS. SCHROEDER: It's Val.

25 MADAM CHAIR: Val?



1 MS. SCHROEDER: It's Val who's missing.

2 MADAM CHAIR: Yeah, I'm ready to start up.

3 (Pause)

4 MS. GOFF: Marcia? Bizy has a birthday on
5 the 19th.

6 MADAM CHAIR: I know.

7 (Overlapping)

8 MADAM CHAIR: All right. The Board will
9 come back to order. Steve left. As usual, we are
10 rearranging things up here. And because the exclusive
11 chartering thing is timed and comes at 1:00, we ask the
12 Rural group to go away and come back later. I wouldn't
13 say will do. And we are presently doing -- what are we
14 doing? Oh, we're going --

15 (Overlapping)

16 MADAM CHAIR: We're going to go into -- you
17 can call us into Exec Session so we can have lunch?

18 MS. BURDSALL: No. No, we have -- we have
19 one more (indiscernible).

20 MADAM CHAIR: No, Steve go ahead.

21 MR. DURHAM: Okay.

22 MR. OWENS: Madam Chair, if we could, we
23 have one more recognition of the 2015 U.S. Presidential
24 Scholars.

25 MADAM CHAIR: Oh, yes, right.



1 MR. OWENS: Would you like me to proceed?

2 MADAM CHAIR: Yes.

3 MR. OWENS: Okay.

4 MADAM CHAIR: Yeah, let's do that. Let's do
5 that. (Indiscernible).

6 MR. OWENS: All right, sounds good. So it's
7 my pleasure today to honor Colorado's honorees for this
8 prestigious award: Andra Turner from Greeley West High
9 School and Samuel Scheeres from Fairview High School.
10 Both of this outstanding individuals were selected as
11 part of the 51st class of U.S. Presidential Scholars.
12 The State Board is proud to honor and recognize these
13 students for their exemplary achievements.

14 The Presidential Scholars Program was
15 created -- created in 1964 to honor top-performing
16 students. One young man and one young woman are chosen
17 from each student, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico,
18 and for families of U.S. citizens living abroad. Of the
19 nearly 3.3 million graduating high school seniors in the
20 nation, we had 4,300 students were chosen as candidates.
21 Of those candidates, only 141 were selected as scholars.
22 The White House Commission of Presidential Scholars,
23 created by President Obama, selects honor scholars
24 annually based on their academic success, artistic
25 excellence, essay, school evaluations, and transcripts,



1 as well as evidence of community service in leadership.

2 The scholars are chosen on the basis of
3 their accomplishments in many areas: Academic again,
4 success, and making sure that they're involved in their
5 community. To celebrate their success as Presidential
6 Scholars, Andra Turner and Samuel Scheeres have been
7 invited to a national recognition ceremony in Washington,
8 D.C. on June 21st, where they'll be presented with a
9 medallion to commemorate being chosen for this
10 prestigious award. Please help me to recognize Andra and
11 Samuel as they come forward. Let's give them a big round
12 of applause and they're going to say a few words.

13 (Applause)

14 MS. TURNER: Madam Chair and Members of the
15 Board, thank you. It is an honor to be standing here in
16 front of you today. Honestly, I never thought I would be
17 considered for such a high honor, let alone receive it.
18 However, I guess some things have a way of working
19 themselves out.

20 I have always had some kind of goal that I
21 have been working toward. And up until this March, that
22 goal was gaining acceptance to an amazing college. Now
23 that I'm headed to Princeton in July, my goals are much
24 broader, with my main goal being to make life better for
25 the people around me.



1 At Greeley West, I was involved in many
2 activities that assisted me in reaching my goals. I was
3 part of several extracurricular activities, such as band,
4 theater, Key Club, International Baccalaureate, National
5 Honor Society, and Student Council, where I served as the
6 student body president during my senior year, just to
7 name a few.

8 In my community, I have served as the vice
9 chairman of the Cache Bank and Trust junior board of
10 directors. And I have been involved in other
11 organizations, such as the Women's Foundation of
12 Colorado. Last summer, I became part of the Leadership
13 Enterprise for a Diverse America, where I attended a
14 seven-week leadership institute on the campus of
15 Princeton University.

16 As I head off to college, I plan on being
17 just as involved, starting -- striving to make a positive
18 impact on the world around me. I plan on studying
19 politics and women's studies and hope to someday to be
20 able to use that knowledge that I gained to help others.
21 I know that the lessons that I have learned from
22 teachers, family, and my experiences will travel with me
23 as I leave my home state of Colorado, and I can't wait to
24 see what adventures lie ahead of me. Thank you.

25 MADAM CHAIR: Thank you.



1 (Applause)

2 MR. SCHEERES: Madam Chair and Members of
3 the Board, I am honored to be here today and that you
4 took time to recognize Andra and me for our selection as
5 U.S. Presidential Scholars. I am excited that I was
6 chosen as a Scholar and I am looking forward to attending
7 the events for this in Washington, D.C.

8 As you know, I recently graduated from
9 Fairview High School in Boulder, and I want to take this
10 opportunity to express how grateful I am for the teachers
11 and educational experiences I had in high school. The
12 community at Fairview encouraged me to pursue education
13 with greater focus and maturity, and in particular,
14 nurture my love of music and math.

15 I am passionate about jazz piano and not --
16 have had excellent musical training through Fairview's
17 band program, led by Travis Keller, the teacher whom I
18 recognized for this award. I was also able to
19 participate in multiple ensembles throughout Colorado,
20 including the Colorado All-State Jazz Band my junior and
21 senior years and the Colorado Conservatory for the Jazz
22 Arts.

23 Studying music with various teachers has
24 radically altered the way I understand and experience the
25 world and has connected me with many other passionate



1 musicians. Playing and listening to music is a powerful
2 experience for me and my goal is to communicate this
3 through the music I helped create and to always play
4 something that is both interesting and unexpected.

5 Without a music program as strong as
6 Fairview's, I would've lacked many opportunities to
7 mature this part of me and I would have never developed
8 this central part to my identity. Music is truly as
9 important as any other subject in high school.

10 Fairview also encouraged academic
11 exploration and I became particularly interested in math
12 and science. Mathematics for me has beauty in the way
13 all concepts link together. Every new mathematical idea
14 is built off of other ideas. And I find it exciting to
15 discover how theorems, definitions, and axioms are
16 constructed and used. I also enjoy sharing this
17 knowledge with those around me through to the tutoring
18 program at Fairview.

19 Thanks to an independent honor science
20 research seminar offered at Fairview and taught by
21 Stroud, I gained my first real understanding of how
22 science and mathematics work. I also spent a significant
23 portion of my senior year working on a theoretical
24 physics research project, in which I analyzed a problem
25 in classical mechanics from a mathematical perspective.



1 I was ultimately selected to participate in the Intel
2 International Science and Engineering Fair in Pittsburgh.
3 I will continue to refine and expand my project over the
4 summer and plan to submit an article to a journal this
5 fall.

6 I will continue to pursue my passions at
7 Oberlin College and Conservatory in Ohio, where I am
8 enrolled in a dual-degree program and plan to study
9 mathematics and jazz piano. I would either like to
10 continue my mathematical studies in graduate school or
11 become a professional musician. I hope to make
12 significant contributions to one of these fields and to
13 pass on my love of music and math to those around me and
14 to another generation of students. Thank you so much for
15 your time today. It has been a pleasure to be here.

16 (Applause)

17 MADAM CHAIR: On behalf of the State Board,
18 I would like to extend our congratulations for obtaining
19 this distinguished honor and the leadership you
20 demonstrated in your schools and communities.

21 Congratulations. Please come forward to receive your
22 2015 Colorado U.S. Presidential Scholar certificate and
23 have your photo taken with your State Board member and
24 Commissioner Hammond.

25 MS. SCHROEDER: Nice. Good job, good job.



1 MADAM CHAIR: Stand in front of me so I can
2 (indiscernible). Take a picture.

3 MS. BURDSALL: Let's do --
4 (Overlapping).

5 MS. BURDSALL: Yeah, yeah. So let's have
6 Pam and Andre?

7 MS. TURNER: Andra.

8 MS. BURDSALL: Andra go first and then we'll
9 have you get your picture taken with Angelika and then
10 (indiscernible).

11 MADAM CHAIR: Come on, guys, move over, so I
12 can duck behind (indiscernible).

13 MS. BURDSALL: On three. One, two, three.

14 MADAM CHAIR: No, we're going to do a lunch
15 executive session (indiscernible).

16 MS. BURDSALL: One, two, three.

17 (Overlapping)

18 (Applause)

19 (Overlapping)

20 MS. BURDSALL: One, two, three. That's why
21 we have the backup. One, two, three.

22 MS. TURNER: Thank you very much.

23 MADAM CHAIR: Thank you. Thank you very
24 much. Thanks (indiscernible). Congratulations.

25 (Overlapping)



1 MS. BURDSALL: One, two, three.

2 (Overlapping)

3 MS. BURDSALL: That's good enough. Just in
4 case. One, two, three.

5 (Overlapping)

6 MADAM CHAIR: Tony? Tony? Can you come up
7 here, please? I just want to make sure we have this time
8 now. We've got the executive session and we're only 20
9 minutes late.

10 MR. DYLAN: Yeah.

11 MADAM CHAIR: (Indiscernible) time for us --

12 (Overlapping)

13 MADAM CHAIR: So we will go into executive
14 session --

15 (Overlapping)

16 MADAM CHAIR: Into exec session, yeah, as
17 soon as we get -- well. Go ahead.

18 MS. BURDSALL: An executive session has been
19 noticed for today's State Board meeting in conformance
20 with 24-6-402(3)(a) C.R.S. to receive legal advance on
21 specific legal questions pursuant to 24-6-402(3)(a)(II)
22 C.R.S. and on matters required to be kept confidential by
23 federal law, rule, or state statute, pursuant to 24-6-
24 402(3)(a)(III).

25 (Meeting adjourned)



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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Kimberly C. McCright, Certified Vendor and Notary, do hereby certify that the above-mentioned matter occurred as hereinbefore set out.

I FURTHER CERTIFY THAT the proceedings of such were reported by me or under my supervision, later reduced to typewritten form under my supervision and control and that the foregoing pages are a full, true and correct transcription of the original notes.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 5th day of February, 2019.

/s/ Kimberly C. McCright
Kimberly C. McCright
Certified Vendor and Notary Public

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